



H.Con.Res. 148 - Recognizing the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month

Floor Situation

H.Con.Res. 148 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA) on May 14, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported from the Committee on Education and Labor.

H.Con.Res. 148 is expected to be considered on the floor on June 18, 2007.

Summary

H.Con.Res. 148 recognizes the significance of National Caribbean-American Heritage Month and encourages the people of the United States to observe Caribbean-American Heritage Month with appropriate ceremonies, celebrations, and activities. It also affirms that the contributions of Caribbean-Americans are a significant part of the history, progress, and heritage of the United States and that the ethnic and racial diversity of the United States enriches and strengthens the Nation.

Background

Emigration from the Caribbean region to the American Colonies began as early as 1619 with the arrival of indentured workers in Jamestown, Virginia and during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, a significant number of slaves from the Caribbean region were brought to the United States.

Alexander Hamilton, a founding father of the United States and the first Secretary of the Treasury, was born in the Caribbean as were the following influential Americans; Jean Baptiste Point du Sable, the pioneer settler of Chicago; Claude McKay, a poet of the Harlem Renaissance; James Weldon Johnson, the writer of the Black National Anthem; Shirley Chisolm, the first African-American Congresswoman and first African-American woman candidate for President; and Celia Cruz, the world-renowned queen of Salsa music.

During the 1960's independence movements in many countries in the Caribbean region and the consequential establishment of independent democratic countries in the Caribbean strengthened ties between the region and the United States.

Staff Contact

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